

Morris-Union Jointure Commission
Developmental Learning Centers

Superintendent's Spotlight

December 2020

Health and Safety #1 at the DLCs!



We appreciate the health and safety measures that students and staff are implementing. Thank you!

Masks, social distancing, and frequent hand washing are all working to keep DLC students and staff healthy! Thank you, parents, for completing your child's daily health survey! It has made a huge difference to ensure that students who may be infectious do not attend school.

In the event of a quarantine at a DLC school or in the event that the Governor closes schools for a period of time, DLC staff are ready to pivot to remote instruction for our students. Remote instruction would consist of 4 hours per day of synchronous instruction with the instructional staff in "real time" and asynchronous instruction through Google Classroom.

What's Happening at the DLCs



In the month of December, the DLCs have a variety of activities planned to celebrate the season.

DLC – New Providence students are planning a **Cookie Exchange**. Each classroom will choose a recipe and then write the steps or use pictures to represent the steps of the recipe. The students will compile the recipes into a **DLC-New Providence Cookie Recipe Book** for students to bake with their families. Each class will also make a snowman to place in the gym for the **Snowmen Gym Winter Funderland**. During adaptive physical education classes, the snowmen will be included in the virtual classes for a winter sports theme. The virtual **Caroling/Holiday Get Together** will be held on December 18 and everyone is encouraged to wear their favorite holiday outfit. Each class will prepare a song or dance, sharing it with the other classes through a Google Meet at the Holiday Get Together. December 23 will be **Pajama Day** and students will participate in classroom holiday activities while being comfortable in their pajamas. Teachers will send out the Google Meet link to parents and guardians so they can share in the activities. We hope you can join us!

In preparation for the holiday season, during Integrated Occupational Therapy, **DLC – Warren** students will be making **Holiday Wreaths**. Each student will have the opportunity to choose the type of decorations for their own wreath. Once all the wreaths are finished, they will be displayed in the classroom door windows. DLC – Warren speech/language specialists will create a **Progressive Holiday Story** during each Integrated Speech Session. This activity is similar to the old "telephone" game with each class submitting one to two sentences to the main storyline. Once all sentences are received, students will randomly select the sentences and develop a holiday story. The story will be read and recorded for all students to view. Students will also be participating in a virtual play, **"Winter Holidays Around the World."** Each class will select a country, research the winter holidays the country celebrates, and prepare a video presentation. All of the classroom presentations will be assembled to create a "Winter Holidays Around the World" virtual field trip that all students at the DLC can watch to learn about other countries' celebrations. Additionally, each class will select a winter/holiday favorite song and perform the song for other classes

during the **Virtual Holiday Sing-Along**. Finally, classes will be creating a **Greetings from the DLC – Warren Flip Grid** to wish everyone a happy holiday.

Winter Weather



School districts now have the ability to count the days in which students and staff cannot be on site due to inclement weather or other emergencies during the pandemic as part of the required 180 days of school as long as four hours of remote instruction are offered each day. Therefore, to ensure that students will receive instruction consistently throughout the school year, the DLCs will have a “remote instruction day” when emergency conditions such as snow days, icy mornings, or other emergencies preclude the ability to have DLC students and staff in the buildings. Remote instruction days will not be tacked onto the calendar in June. However, in the event of a widespread emergency such as extensive power outages, the MUJC will use an “emergency closing day.” An emergency closing day is a day in which there is no on-site or remote instruction and the day will need to be tacked onto the end of the school year. There will be no delayed opening while the DLCs are on an abbreviated on-site school day during the pandemic.

With the winter months ahead of us, I want to remind parents about our inclement weather procedures. You will receive a telephone call via Instant Alert no later than 6:30 a.m. if the DLC will have a “remote instruction day” or if the DLCs will have an “emergency closing day.” Please ensure that you have updated your contact information (home telephone number, cell telephone number, and email address) if there have been any changes. This can be done via the MUJC website (www.mujc.org) by clicking on the “Parent” tab at the top of the page. Click on “School Closings and Delayed Openings,” which will bring you to the Instant Alert link. Our remote instruction days or emergency closing days are also displayed prominently on our website, Facebook, and Twitter as well as on the voicemail message at the MUJC Central Office number, which is 908-464-7625, or at the telephone numbers of the Developmental Learning Center sites (DLC – New Providence: 908-508-1345; DLC – Warren: 908-762-5600). Finally, remote instruction days and emergency closing days will be listed on WNBC – TV (Channel 4) and nj.com.

Mark Your Calendar



The DLCs will be **closed** for **Winter Recess** from **Thursday, December 24, 2020 through Friday, January 1, 2021**. The DLCs will **reopen** on **Monday, January 4, 2021**.

Holiday Wishes



We hope that each and every one of our DLC families and staff members has a wonderful and healthy holiday season. Thank you so much for all that you do for our programs, and we look forward to a safe and productive 2021!

Janet L. Fike
Superintendent